

Oral History Program: Biographical Notes

Michael Berman (1937 -)

Civil Engineer

- Birth & Family:** Born 6th October, 1937. Colombo, Sri Lanka. Father was a clerk and draughtsman in Surveyor General's Office. Mother was a teacher.
- Education:** Attended primary school at Holy Family School, Colombo until October 1942. He completed his high school at St. Joseph's Catholic College for Boys in Colombo.
- Berman was accepted to the University of Ceylon in 1957 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science and Engineering in 1961.
- Qualifications:** B. Sc and Eng.
- Memberships:**
- Awards:** IEAust Excellence Award for the Sydney Water Board's Report of Sewerage and Storm Water problems in the Blue Mountains.
- IEAust Excellence Award for Sydney Water Board's "Water 21" Report.
- Work History:** Berman spent his first 6 months after graduation in a paid position assisting students at the University.
- He was then employed at the Ceylon Cement Corporation as contract supervisor in the Design Office. During this time he passed the Institute of Civil Engineering exam.
- In June 1965, Berman moved to London. He joined J.D. and D.M. Watson Consultants, who specialised in Public Health, working in structural design. After 6 months, he transferred to the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Wakefield, Yorkshire as a resident engineer for 18 months. He worked in the design of sludge digestion and sludge drying beds. Worked for Cussons & Partners in Leeds for 18 months designing sewerage treatment plants for little cities and villages in Yorkshire.
- Berman immigrated to Sydney in 1968. He worked in structural design with Gutteridge, Haskins & Davey before joining Sydney Water Board in 1970.
- Married in 1970, he had 3 children, all university graduates.
- He retired December 1998 after 28 years with the Sydney Water Board, having primarily worked in public health, planning and environmental impact.
- The construction of the Blue Mountains diversion tunnel was a subsequent result of Berman's report on "Sewerage and Storm Water problems in the Blue Mountains".

Prepared by Michelle Keatinge, February 2003 from oral history interviews conducted on 20.10.98.